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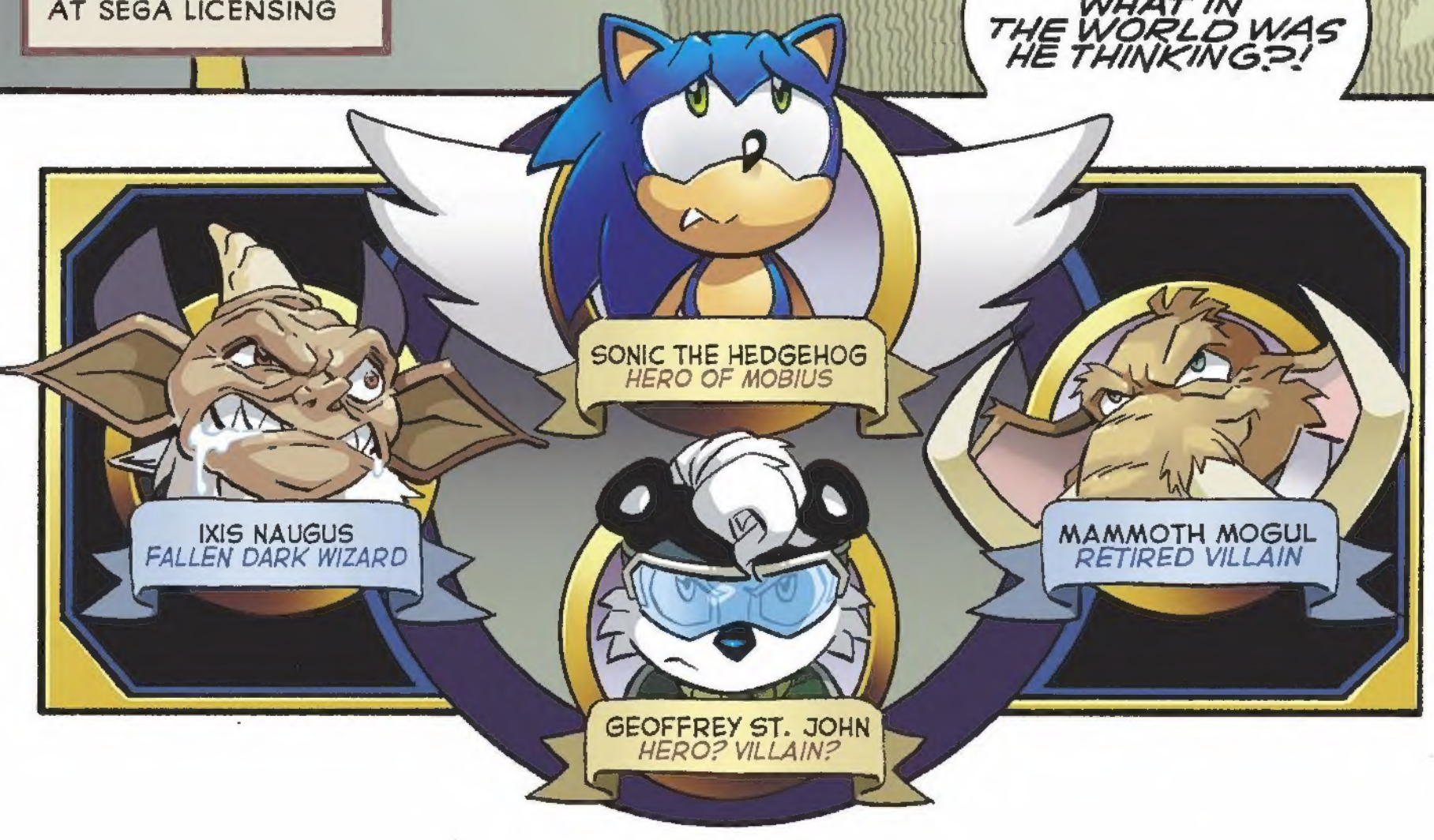
THE SPECIAL ZONE...

NRRGH!

SHOT IN THE BACK --BY GEOFFREY?! WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS HE THINKING?!

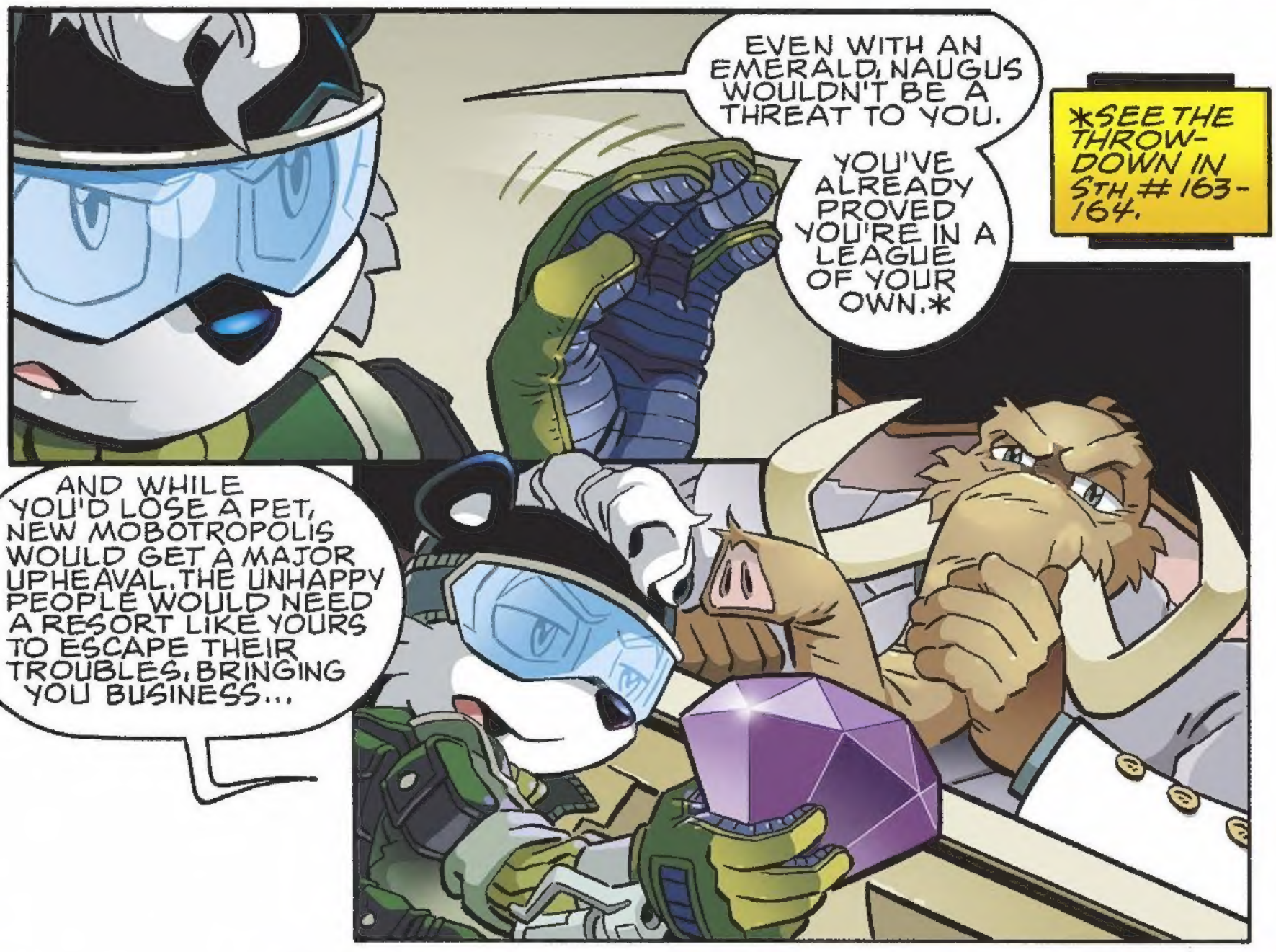
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COVER: PEPPERS, AUSTIN, AND HERMS
EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO
SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU AND JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING



THEN THE JERK BOOTS ME INTO...THIS, CLASSY.
AND YOU JUST STOOD THERE AND WATCHED!
FEIST FOUND IT AMUSING.
EVERY-THING IN THE SPECIAL ZONE...
...IS FOR FEIST'S AMUSE-MENT.
YEAH, WELL, FEIST NEEDS TO FIND A BETTER SENSE OF HUMOR...AND SOME PERSONAL PRONOUNS...
...AND HOW DO I GET OUT OF HERE?
WE CAME HERE PRE-TENDING TO HELP SENILE OLD MAX,* BUT I REALLY DOUBT GEOFFREY IS ACTUALLY GRABBING THE CHAOS EMERALD FOR THE OLD MAN. SO WHAT THE HECK IS HE REALLY UP TO?
*SEE LAST ISSUE.

CASINO NIGHT CLUB...
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY CAUTION, COMMANDER ST. JOHN.
IT'S NOT OFTEN A SECRET AGENT OF MY HATED ENEMIES COMES TO MY PLACE OF BUSINESS, HARASSES MY STAFF, AND BRANDISHES A GEMSTONE OF UNFATHOMABLE POWER.
YOU SAID ALL THAT IN ONE BREATH. YOU REALLY ARE A TALKER.
DO NOT BORE ME WITH PETTY INSULTS.
AND YOU ARE MISTAKEN IF YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN WOO ME WITH YET ANOTHER CHAOS EMERALD.
THE EMERALD ISN'T FOR YOU, MOGUL. NOR IS IT FOR SALE.
IT IS TO RESTORE IXIS NAUGUS TO HIS FORMER GLORY.

RESTORE THE LAST OF MY OLD ORDER SO HE MIGHT CHALLENGE ME? LOSE MY DELIGHTFULLY GRUESOME PET? I THINK NOT.


EVEN WITH AN EMERALD, NAUGUS WOULDN'T BE A THREAT TO YOU.
YOU'VE ALREADY PROVED YOU'RE IN A LEAGUE OF YOUR OWN.*
*SEE THE THROW-DOWN IN STH # 163-164.
AND WHILE YOU'D LOSE A PET, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS WOULD GET A MAJOR UPHEAVAL. THE UNHAPPY PEOPLE WOULD NEED A RESORT LIKE YOURS TO ESCAPE THEIR TROUBLES, BRINGING YOU BUSINESS...

...AND I GUARANTEE COMPLETING MY MISSION WILL MAKE SONIC MISERABLE.
AND *THERE* YOU HAVE SOLD ME, MY GOOD MAN. NAUGUS IS ALL YOURS.

EASY, THERE... I'M NOT EVEN SURE THIS WILL WORK--

LET NO JOYFUL VOICE BE HEARD! LET NO ONE LOOK TO THE SKY WITH HOPE! AND LET THIS DAY BE CURSED FOR THOSE WHO WITNESS THE RETURN OF...
...IXIS NAUGUS !!!
EXCELLENT RETURN TO FORM, SIR!
YOU! LONG HAVE I SUFFERED INDIGNITY AT YOUR HANDS! TRAPPED IN A BROKEN MIND! TREATED AS AN ANIMAL! YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR!
YOU MISERABLE, WRETCHED FAILURE !!!
GAK!
MASTER!
YOU ARE STILL RECOVERING, AND THERE IS MUCH WE NEED TO REVIEW. WE SHOULD FALL BACK FOR NOW.

"PREPARE FOR MY RETURN," I SAID!
"ENSURE THE KINGDOM STANDS," I SAID!
"REMOVE THE ACORNS," I SAID!!!
÷KOFF!÷ ÷KOFF!÷ TH-THERE'S STILL A KINGDOM OF SORTS, AND THERE'S STILL A "MOBO-TROPOLIS" FOR YOU TO RULE!
÷KOFF!÷ AND THE ACORN FAMILY WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN STABILITY! I DID THE BEST I COULD! AND IF YOU WANT TO STAND A CHANCE OF TAKING YOUR THRONE BACK, YOU NEED ME!
I'VE BEEN ACTIVE ALL THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT IMPRISONED OR DISABLED. AND UNLIKE YOU, SIR, I HAVE TACT. BRUTE MAGICAL FORCE WON'T WORK FOR WHAT YOU WANT.
BAH! WHAT NEED DO I HAVE FOR YOU?

AND HE BROUGHT YOU A CHAOS EMERALD. I SHOULD THINK THAT WOULD COUNT FOR SOMETHING.
RIGHT! THAT TOO!
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU, MOGUL.

DO NOT MISTAKE MY SUPPORT FOR CHARITY. YOU'VE PROMISED ME A REVOLUTION, AND I EXPECT THIS INVESTMENT TO PAY OFF.
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU WANT ONCE MY MASTER IS PROVEN THE RIGHTFUL KING OF MOBOTROPOLIS.

MOGUL...WE WILL HAVE OUR RECKONING.
ONE DAY. BUT NOT NOW.
BAH. COME, APPRENTICE WE MUST PREPARE TO DEAL WITH THE QUICKSTER.
SONIC? I SHOT HIM IN THE BACK.

BWAHAHAHAHAA!
HHHHA HA HA! THAT ALONE EARNS YOU A REPRIEVE!
THANK YOU, SIR.

"WHAT BECAME OF THE QUICK-STER AFTER YOU SHOT HIM?"
ALL YOU DO IS FALL. THIS BORES FEIST.
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO, BIG GUY. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH GODLIKE POWERS. YOU DO SOME-THING.
VERY WELL! DISPLAY YOUR SKILLS TO FEIST, AND YOU WILL FIND YOUR WAY HOME!
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

WOO!
BWONK
BWONK
BWONK
BWONK
BWONK
SO CLOSE! WILL YOU FALL BACK INTO THE VOID?
BWONK
I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL THE FUN I CAN STAND HERE TODAY!

HA HA HA! DELIGHTFUL! YOU ARE FEIST'S FAVORITE!
I AIM TO PLEASE. SEE YOU LATER...
FREEDOM HQ...
...YOU CREEPY, OVERBEARING, ILL-TEMPERED, BAD-HUMORED, EGOTISTICAL BADGER-PANDA-GIANT-THING...
SONIC! WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M STILL NOT SURE, NICOLE. DID YOU SEE GEOFFREY PASS THROUGH?
WELL, I DETECTED THAT SOMEONE HAD RETURNED, AND WITH A CHAOS EMERALD, BUT NOBODY ANSWERED ME. I LEFT THE PORTAL OPEN JUST IN CASE.
THANKS FOR THAT. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE IF IT WERE CLOSED.
"TELL THE COUNCIL OF ACORN I'M ON MY WAY BACK...
"...AND THAT I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS."

LATER--CASTLE ACORN...

...AND THEN HE GAVE ME THE BOOT RIGHT INTO THE BRINK. IT TOOK ME THIS LONG JUST TO GET OUT OF THE SPECIAL ZONE AND BACK HERE.

AND THROUGH THE STORM, NO LESS. SO, SORRY FOR THE PUDDLE.

DOCTOR QUACK, YOU'VE BEEN ATTENDING TO MY ...TO MAXIMILLIAN. DO YOU BELIEVE HE'S...WELL... PLOTTING TO RETAKE THE THRONE?

IT'S NO SECRET YOUR FATHER HAS ENDURED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRAUMA THAT WOULD'VE BROKEN MOST MEN MANY TIMES OVER. IT'S TAKING ITS TOLL. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU...

"...HE'S NO THREAT TO ANYONE OR ANYTHING.

"HIS GOOD DAYS ARE GETTING FEWER AND FARTHER BETWEEN."

DESPITE WHAT'S HAPPENED TODAY, WE CAN'T BE SURE GEOFFREY ISN'T ACTING ON OLD ORDERS, OR FOR THE GREATER GOOD. THAT SAID, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD MOVE THE ACORN FAMILY TO A SAFE PLACE, AND...

NO. DISPATCH EXTRA GUARDS FOR MY FAMILY AND PARENTS, BUT MY PLACE IS HERE--
BUT SIRE...
--AND YOU'RE CRAZY IF YOU THINK SALLY WILL BE CONTENT TO SIT AND HIDE.

I'M SURE GEOFFREY WILL EXPLAIN HIMSELF IN TIME.
YOU'VE PLAYED ME BEFORE, BUT I'M GIVING YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, ST. JOHN. YOU'D BETTER NOT USE THAT AGAINST ME.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO HAUL HIS STRIPED BUTT IN WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOUR KINGY-NESS.
I'M SURE YOU WILL.

"WE'LL BE READY FOR ANYTHING!"
THE BAND'S WAITING FOR YOU, ASH. MINA SAID TO TELL YOU SHE WAS RUNNING BEHIND.
THAT'S COOL, MRS. MONGOOSE. THANKS.
WOW. AND I THOUGHT IT LOOKED STORMY *OUTSIDE.*
CUTE. LISTEN, MANAGER-MAN. WE NEED TO *TALK.*
YEAH.
FINE. START TALKING.
IT'S THESE NEW TUNES YOU'RE HEAPING ON US, MAN. I DIDN'T SIGN ON TO SEND A MESSAGE. I JUST WANT TO PLAY SOME MUSIC AND HAVE SOME FUN.
YEAH.
I DON'T MIND PLAYING WITH A BIT OF AN EDGE, BUT I DON'T LIKE *YOU* FORCING ALL THIS HEAVY STUFF ON US.
YEAH.
TOO BAD...
...BECAUSE THE MESSAGES ARE ALL *MINE!*

ACTUALLY...
...I TOLD HER TO TONE IT DOWN A BIT.
GUYS, I KNOW THIS IS WAY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE USUALLY PLAY...
...BUT THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY NEED TO HEAR THIS. THIS ALBUM IS DRIVING OUR NEXT CONCERT. THERE NEEDS TO BE A CHANGE, AND I KNOW OUR MUSIC CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!
YEAH, BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO IT? I LIKED PLAYING POP.
YEAH.
NICOLE USED HER NANITES TO MAKE ALL YOUR INSTRUMENTS, NOT TO MENTION THIS WHOLE HOUSE.
IF SHE LOST CONTROL AGAIN, THIS ENTIRE ROOM COULD EAT US.
EXACTLY.
NOW LET'S START WORKING, PEOPLE! THIS MUSIC IS ROUGH, AND NEEDS LOTS OF LOVE!

"I SEE. MUCH HAS TRANSPIRED IN MY ABSENCE...
CONCERT IN 3 WEEKS
"ENERJAK, THE NEW CITY, THE IRON DOMINION...
"THEY'VE BEEN RUN RAGGED.
"THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME COMING. AND WHAT OF ROBOTNIK?"
"AT THIS POINT, ANYTHING HE DOES ONLY HELPS US."

THIS WILL ALL PLAY DIRECTLY INTO YOUR HANDS. *IF* YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD, SIR.
YOUR MAGIC IS WEAK, BUT YOU ALWAYS *DID* EXCEL IN YOUR CRAFTINESS. I WILL DEFER TO YOU FOR NOW.
BE PATIENT, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. YOUR *RIGHTFUL* KING IS ON HIS WAY!
THIS *DOESN'T BODE WELL* AT ALL! *NAUGUS* MAKES HIS FIRST SINISTER MOVE IN "*CHANGING TEMPO*" *NEXT ISSUE!*
UNTIL THEN, ENJOY *"SONIC UNIVERSE,"* THE *SONIC ARCHIVES*, AND *SONIC SELECTS!*

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Writer:
IAN FLYNN
Pencils:
JAMAL PEPPERS
Inks:
TERRY AUSTIN
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RAY DILLON
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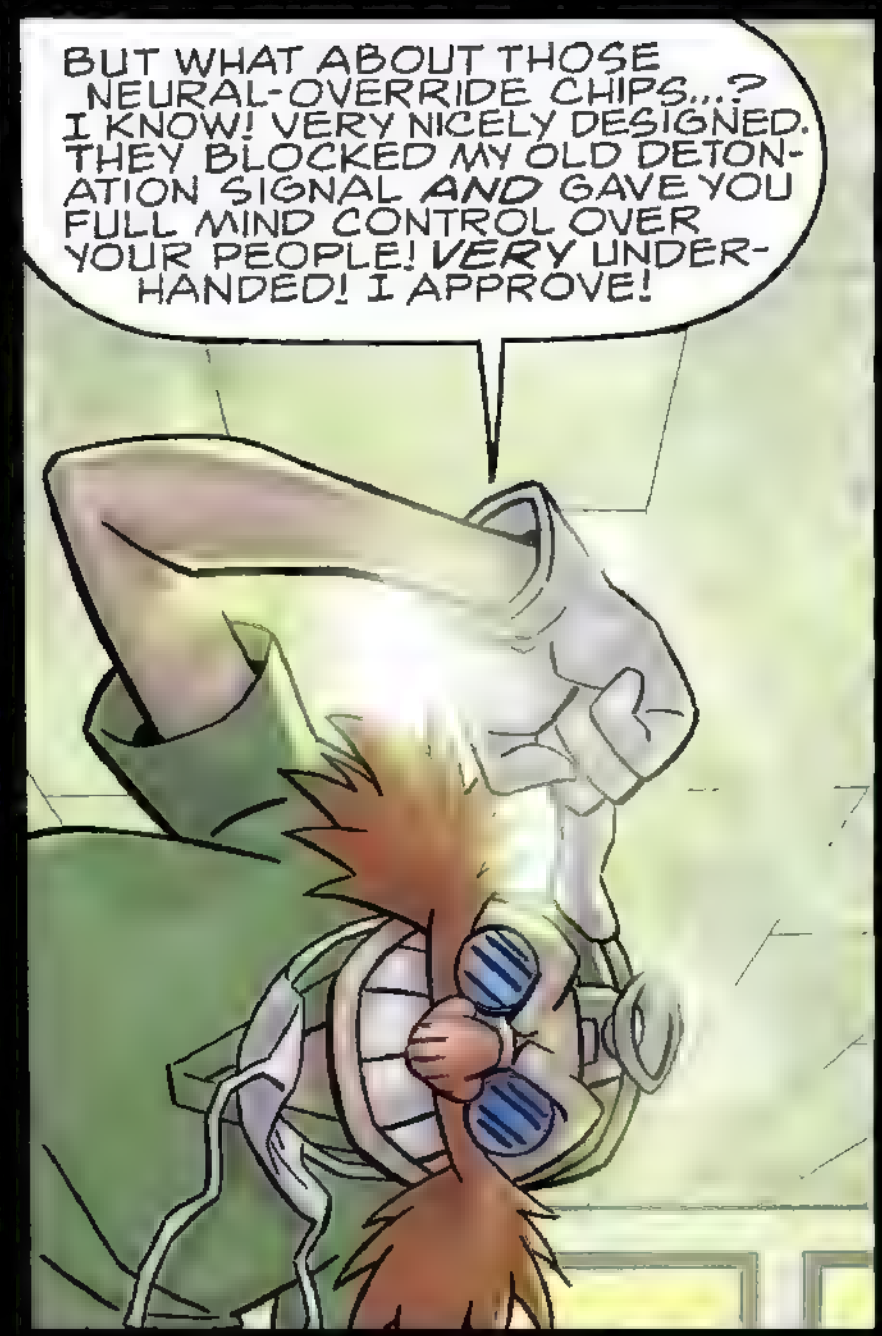
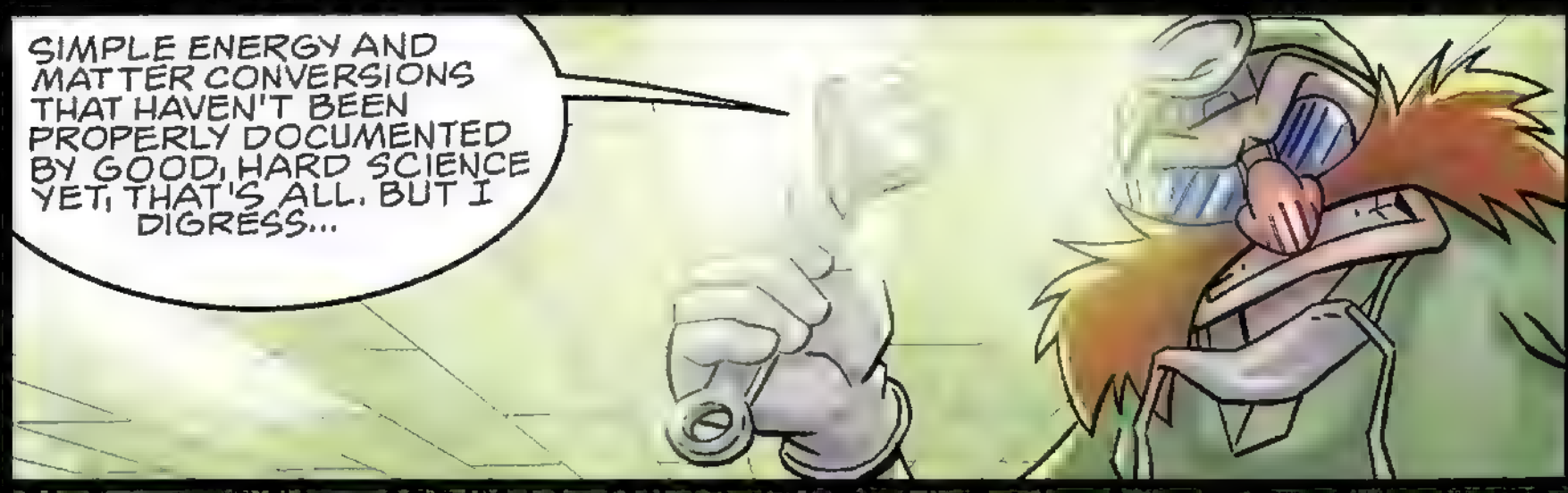
JOHN WORKMAN

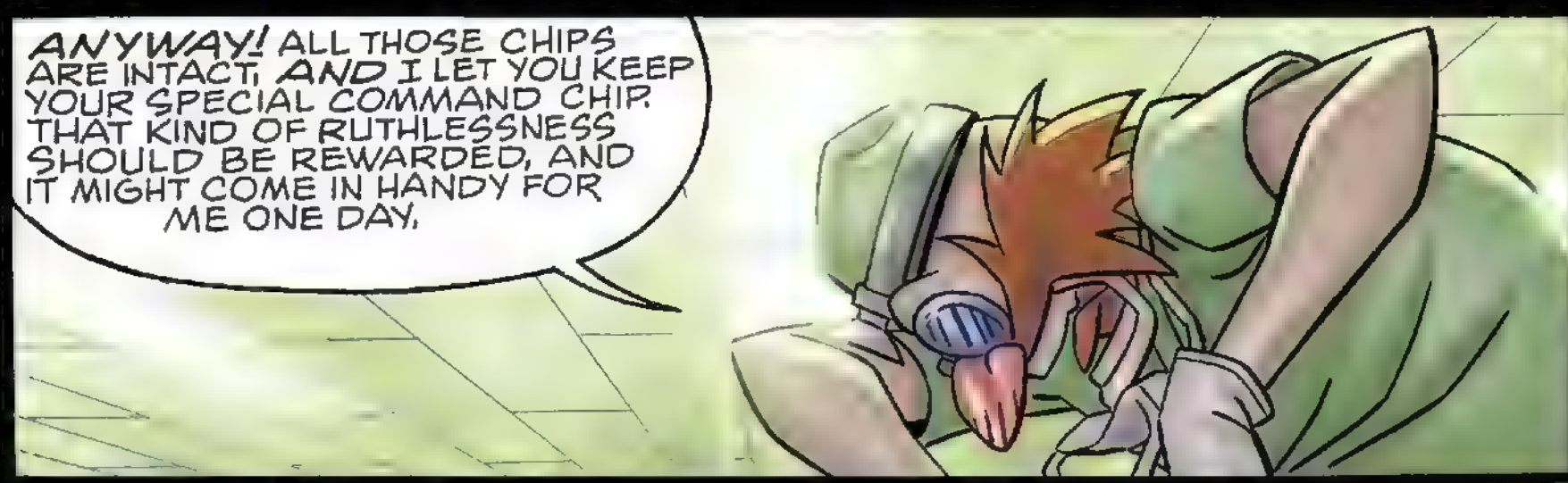
DO YOU RECOG-NIZE THIS?
NO?
IT'S THE SAME KIND OF EXPLOSIVE I'VE PUT INTO ALL MY TROOPS TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE GOOD LITTLE LEGION-NAIRES.

YOU NEED YOURS REPLACED, SINCE THE OTHER ONE EXPLODED ON YOU.
BUT...

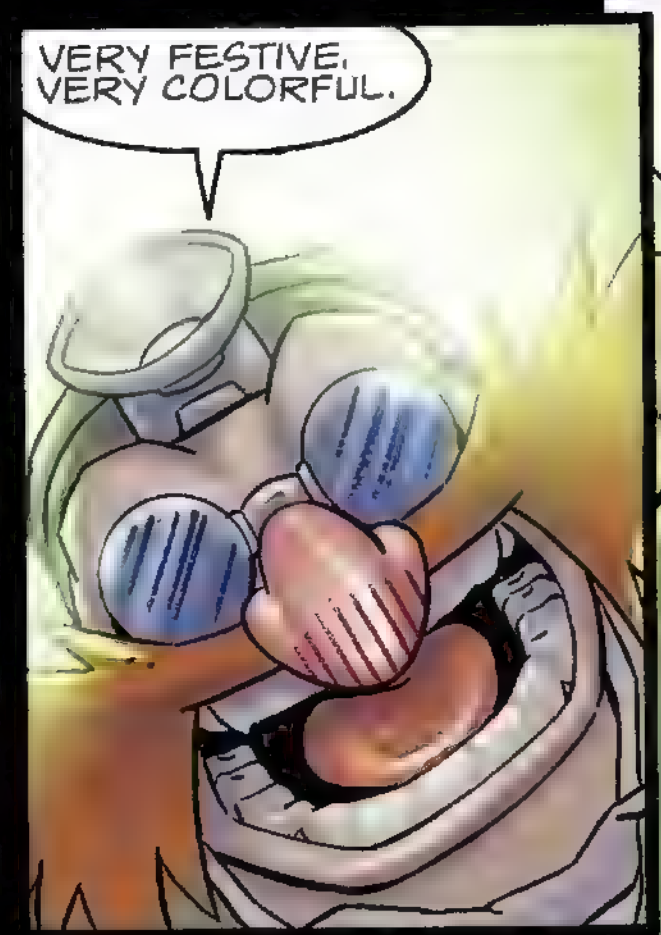

BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE NEURAL-OVERRIDE CHIPS...? I KNOW! VERY NICELY DESIGNED. THEY BLOCKED MY OLD DETON-ATION SIGNAL *AND* GAVE YOU FULL MIND CONTROL OVER YOUR PEOPLE! *VERY* UNDER-HANDED! I APPROVE!

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, THOUGH, THAT THE IRON QUEEN USED HER TECHNO-MAGIC-WHATEVER TO BYPASS *YOUR* BYPASS AND SET YOUR BOMB OFF. WHICH I WOULD APPLAUD, BUT SHE LOSES POINTS FOR RELYING ON "MAGIC." *BAH.*


SIMPLE ENERGY AND MATTER CONVERSIONS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN PROPERLY DOCUMENTED BY GOOD, HARD SCIENCE YET, THAT'S ALL. BUT I DIGRESS...


ANYWAY! ALL THOSE CHIPS ARE INTACT, AND I LET YOU KEEP YOUR SPECIAL COMMAND CHIP. THAT KIND OF RUTHLESSNESS SHOULD BE REWARDED, AND IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY FOR ME ONE DAY.

I RECALIBRATED THE DETONATION SIGNAL, THOUGH. IF YOU OR ANY OF YOUR ECHIDNA-BUDDIES CROSS ME...
...YOU'RE ALL GOING UP LIKE A FIREWORKS FESTIVAL.


VERY FESTIVE. VERY COLORFUL.

AND SPEAKING OF TAKING LIBERTIES WITH YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE, I'M ALL DONE! TAKE A LOOK...
OH, NO ...!

...LIEN-DA.
I'M... BEAUTIFUL. YOU FIXED EVERY-THING...
NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. YOU HAVE EVEN MORE INTERNAL CYBERNETICS THAN BEFORE, AND A FEW NEW LIMBS AND UP-GRADES, BUT WITH MY CRAFTSMANSHIP, NO-BODY WILL BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
...WHY ?!
HMM?
YOU BOMBED AND BUTCHERED MY PEOPLE TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION!
YOU'VE ROBBED OUR ORGANIZATION OF ANY DIGNITY! YOU COULD HAVE LEFT ME FOR DEAD, OR WORSE--MADE ME LIKE DIMITRI. WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME ANY SHRED OF MERCY OR DECENCY?!
BECAUSE IT'S ALL PART OF THE GAME.

GAME? WHAT GAME?
WHY, THE SAME GAME I'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH SNIVELY FOR YEARS. THE SAME GAME I PLAY WITH ALL OF MY GRAND-MASTERS. THINK OF IT AS A ROULETTE OF TRUST.

I KNOW EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU IS BIDING YOUR TIME. YOU'RE ALL WAITING FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT TO TURN ON ME. AND TAKE MY EMPIRE FOR YOURSELVES.

BUT UNTIL THEN, YOU ALL SERVE TO YOUR FULLEST. BECAUSE THE STRONGER YOU MAKE ME, THE MORE YOU'LL REAP IN THE END. IF YOU MANAGE TO TURN ON ME AND SURVIVE, THAT IS. SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, GRANDMASTER LIEN-DA?

I SAY, "LET THE GAMES BEGIN."
(NOT) THE END

the SONIC SPIN

we can editorially comment - we have the technology!

2011 PREVIEW EDITION!

If you thought 2010 was awesome, just you wait! thought I'd take this month's editorial page to give y'all a sneak peak of some of the pure awesomeness heading your way, courtesy of everyone's favorite true-blue hero SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

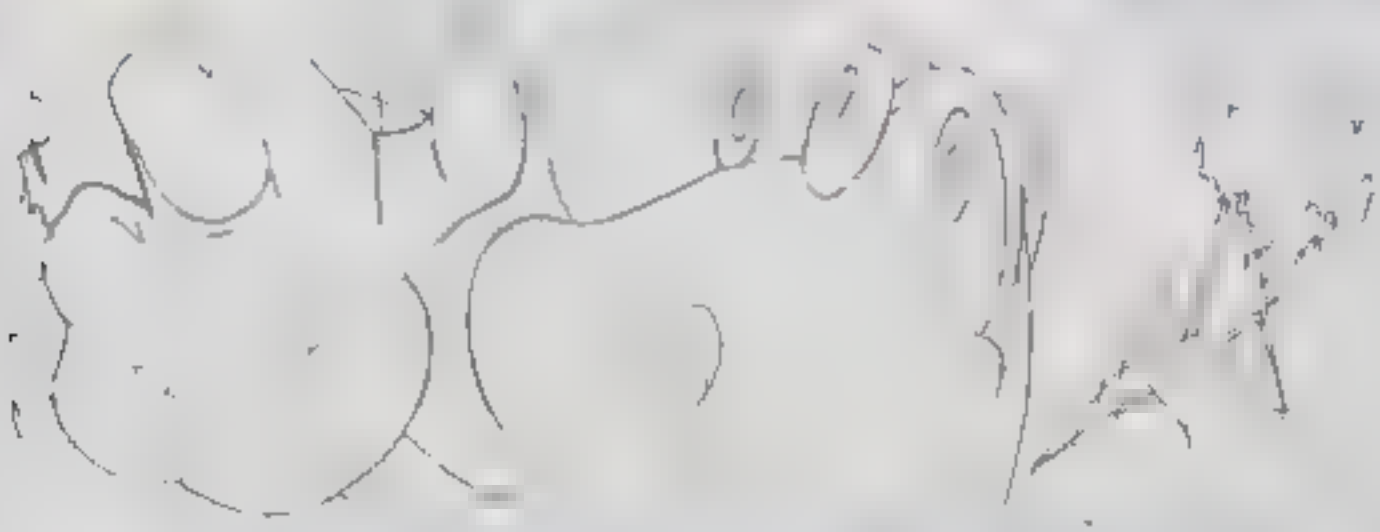
The first thing to get a major overhaul? SONIC GRAPHIC NOVELS! Besides the return of the SONIC SELECT series and the continuation of the über-successful SONIC ARCHIVES series, you're going to be getting BRAND NEW graphic novel titles (that's right, PLURAL!) that are just going to blow your mind! (a little teaser to one of the new GN series is below! shhh!)

From brand new graphic novels to the regular monthly titles, both Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe will be featuring the returns of MAJOR villains and a very special romance.

Then, to coincide with Sonic's 20th Anniversary, there's a little story we like to call "Sonic GENESIS." You're not going to BELIEVE this one.

Catch ya next month! Paul

"I'VE FIGURED IT ALL OUT."
~ DR. EGGMAN, SONIC #210



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OFF PANEL

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LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSES IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLY TO EACH FAN. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REDUCE [illegible]

Dear Sonic Grams,
I love the comics.

Now, THAT is the way to start a letter.

I would say that I am Sonic fan #20 because I love the comics and I am behind Amber and Cariane and Tyler.

Your humility delights and intrigues me. Go on...

And I have some questions.

Let the inquiry to begin!

1) Does is hurt to be roboticized?

Well I've never been roboticized, so I couldn't say for sure - but if you're turned into a robot you would never really be able to feel pain again, so I would say no.

2) Does Sonic like Amy or Sally?

At the end of Sonic #212 it sure looked like Sonic and Sally were gearing up for another go at a relationship, but I will say this: very soon you WILL have a definitive answer to that question!

BTW I am Son/Amy 4 life.

So is Amy!

And Monkey Khan just stood around during all the drama! The Monkey is smooth.

Khan is over the drama, methinks.

4) Are Shadow or Silver evil?

Evil? Nah, I wouldn't say "evil" at all! Check out Sonic Universe Arc #6 - "Treasure Team Tango" (going on right now!!) to catch a glimpse of Shadow's true heroic intentions!

Keep on keepin' on!

C.T C.
from Virginia

Thanks for the letter, C.T!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I love the idea of "super" Sonic characters like Super Sonic, Super Shadow, Super Silver and others, but I have one question: Why doesn't Sonic stay in his "super" form all of the time?

Thanks,
Myles R.
from Washington

To achieve "super" form, you need a certain amount of access to the chaos energy found in Chaos Emeralds or Power Rings. Seeing as how the Chaos Emeralds aren't around Sonic all the time it wouldn't really be possible to be "super" all of the time. Plus if he was yellow 24/7 he wouldn't be our "true blue" hero!

Dear Sonic Grams,
My sister, Linzie, and I came up with a list of questions for you, so I hope you're ready.

Fire away!

But before we ask any questions, you know we can't help but tell you once again that SONIC COMICS ROCK!!!! And thanks for making them rock so hard!

We rock because we care.

1) Has there ever been a *Sonic Heroes* tie-in?

Directly? Not really. But Sonic heroes is one of those games that influenced the Sonic comics more than most on a variety of levels. (get it, LEVELS? heh) All you have to do is turn to the team-based mayhem tearing through Sonic Universe at this very moment in "Treasure Team Tango"!

2) What about a tie-in for *Sonic Rush* or *Sonic Rush Adventure*?

Pick up Sonic #160 & 161 for the "Rush" tie-in, available in the Sonic 2006 Collector's Set @ www.archiecomics.com!

3) Can Scourge perform "Chaos Control"?

We shall see...

4) Do Scourge, Shadow or Ray have any love interests?

Shadow tried to get with Sally one time in a possible-future and it didn't turn out so hot. Scourgey-pooh has been getting awfully friendly with Fiona and Ray's WAY too young.

Thanks for reading our letter!

Rachel & Linzie G.
from Indiana

P.S. - rachel loves tails! <3

Thanks for the letter, girls! Did Rachel love "The Tails Adventure" over in SU?? See ya next month!

NEXT ISSUE:221

LOOK OUT, SONIC!
IXIS NAUGUS IS BACK!

So what does the evil wizard's return have to do with Mina's brand new concert tour? You'll find out next month in ...

"CHANGING TEMPO"
ON SALE THE WEEK OF 02/08/11

NEXT SONIC UNIVERSE: 24

DON'T MISS:
TREASURE TEAM TANGO!
THE CONCLUSION

ALL 4 TEAMS HAVE FORMED, - BUT WHO WILL END UP WITH THE SHINY?

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 1/25/11!

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